



Department of Highways District 9

**For Immediate Release
August 8, 2012**

Contact: Allen Blair
Allen.Blair@ky.gov
606-845-2551
606-748-3716

Drivers be alert – It's back to school time!

Transportation Cabinet urges drivers to be cautious and watch for buses

FLEMINGSBURG, Ky. – Students have returned to school, or soon will, across northeastern Kentucky and the Transportation Cabinet reminds motorists to share the road safely!

Drivers should watch for buses and slower traffic, particularly during early morning and afternoon hours, and remember that state law requires all traffic to stop for a school bus loading and unloading passengers.

When a bus' stop sign is extended and its red flashers are on, both oncoming and following cars must stop. The only exception is for four-lane divided highways, where oncoming traffic in the other lane is not required to stop.

Also, Kentucky Department of Highways personnel have activated flashing signs and beacons where school traffic enters state highways. Motorists are reminded that those devices denote not only "school zones" but also areas of roadways where speed limits may be reduced while buses are on the road.

Other safety tips for drivers include paying attention behind the wheel and allowing extra time to get to work or other destinations.

Parents, here are some tips you can share with your children on "back to school" traffic safety before, during and after the bus stop:

- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing or other behavior that can lead to carelessness.
- Line up away from the street or road as the bus approaches.
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the door opens before stepping onto the roadway.
- Once on the bus, find a seat, sit down, and talk quietly. Yelling or other noises can distract the bus driver.

- Never put your head, arms or hands out of the window; and keep the aisles clear.
- At your stop, wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat. Then, walk to the front door and exit.
- When getting off a bus, if you have to cross the street in front of it, walk at least 10 feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road, until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure the bus driver can see you. Wait for a signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- Look left, right, and then left again before crossing the street. Continue to look in this manner until you are safely across.
- Stay away from the rear wheels of the bus at all times.

###

Find more information about Department of Highways District 9 activities online at <http://transportation.ky.gov/district-9>, or keep up to date via Twitter at <http://twitter.com/KYTCDistrict9> or via Facebook at <http://facebook.com/KYTCDistrict9>.